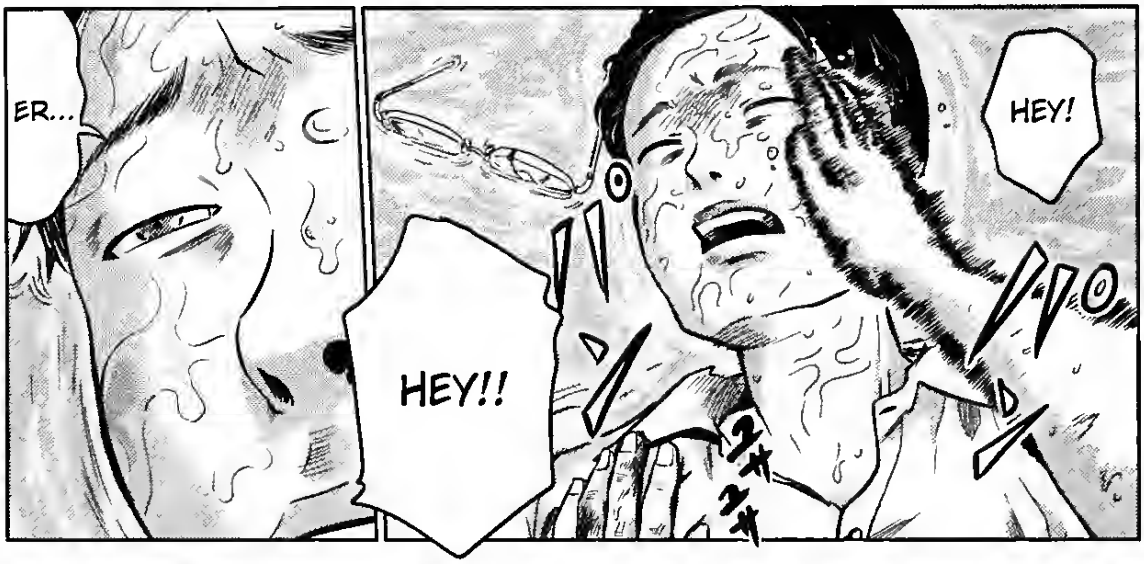
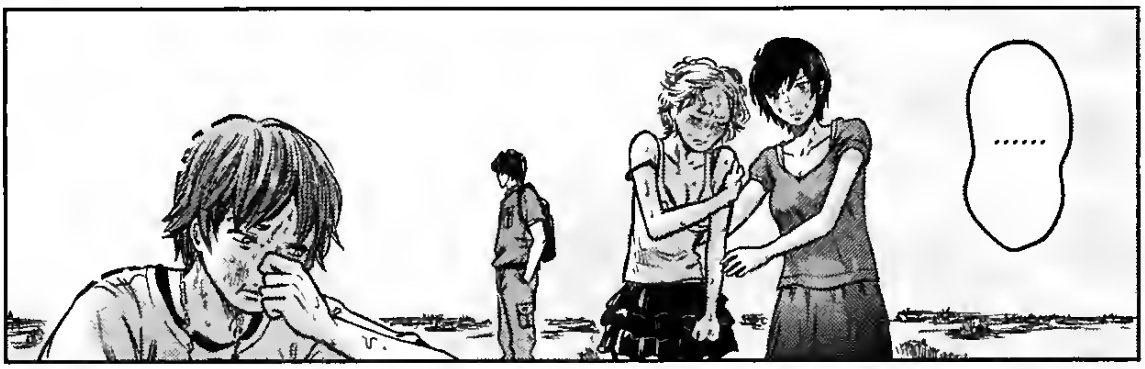
CHAPTER 14: LIGHT

【第14話】光明


ER...
HEY!!
HEY!

WAKE UP!

HUH ...!?
ガバッ!!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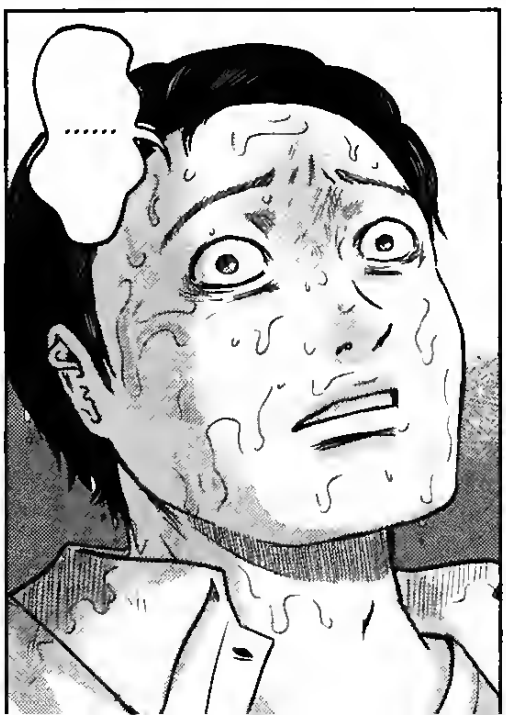

.....

TO THE NET CAFE.
WE'RE HEADING BACK.

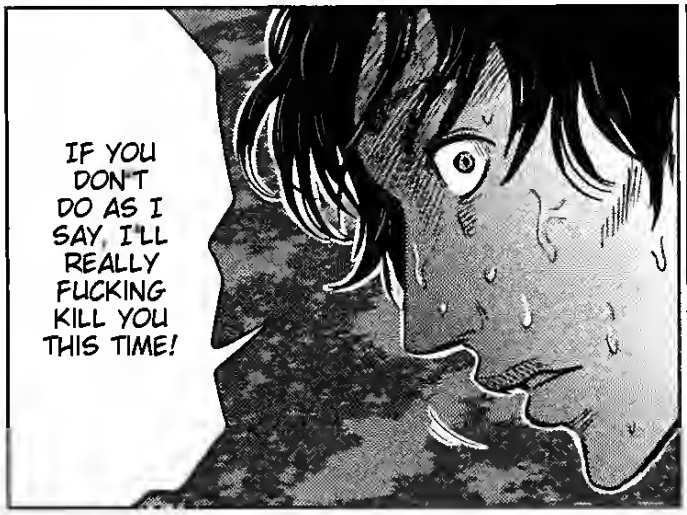
I... I WAS ASSAULT-ED!
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT PLACE WITH THOSE PIGS!
NO...
N-...
WE'VE GOT NOWHERE ELSE TO GO!
WE'VE GOT TO SURVIVE HERE... COME ON, LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER ON THIS!
SO THAT WE CAN GO BACK HOME!!
HEY !!!!
AND EXACTLY *HOW* ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT!?
WORK *TOGE-THER* !?

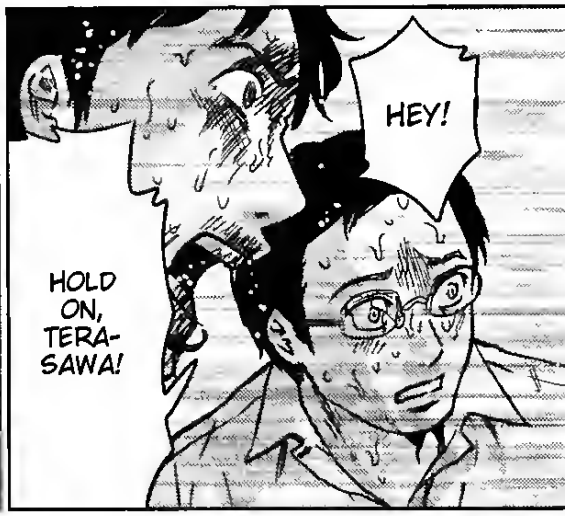
I'LL LEAVE YOU MOTHER-FUCKERS BEHIND, YOU HEAR!?
STOP PISSIN' AROUND !!!

ER...
.....

OH, AND BY THE WAY...
DON'T SAY A *WORD* ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED HERE TO THE PEOPLE AT THE NET CAFE!
WHA-...!

WE'RE LEAVING THE OLD MAN'S BODY HERE TOO.


IF YOU DON'T DO AS I SAY, I'LL REALLY FUCKING KILL YOU THIS TIME!

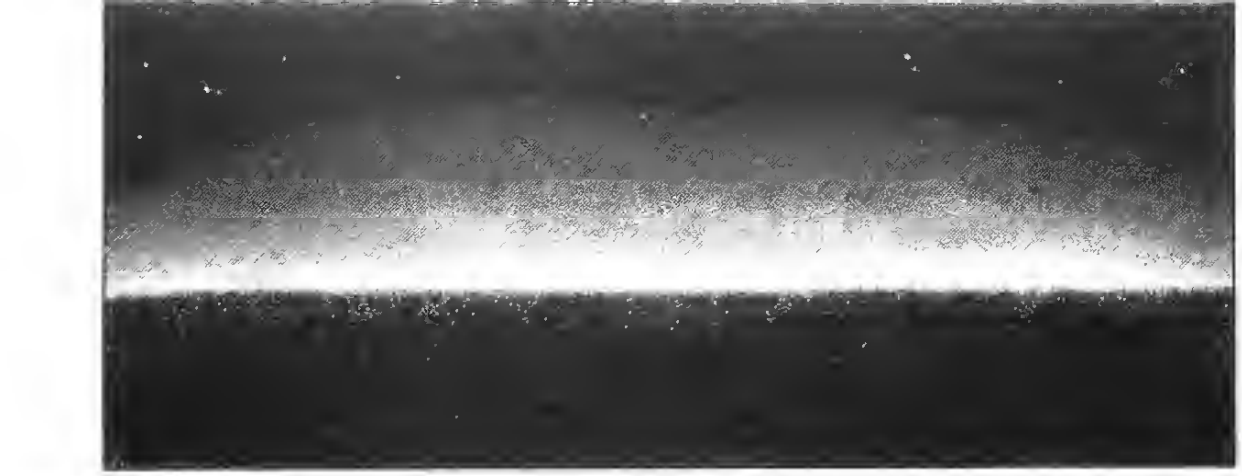

HEY!
HOLD ON, TERA-SAWA!

.....

NOW HURRY THE FUCK UP AND LET'S GET GOING!!!

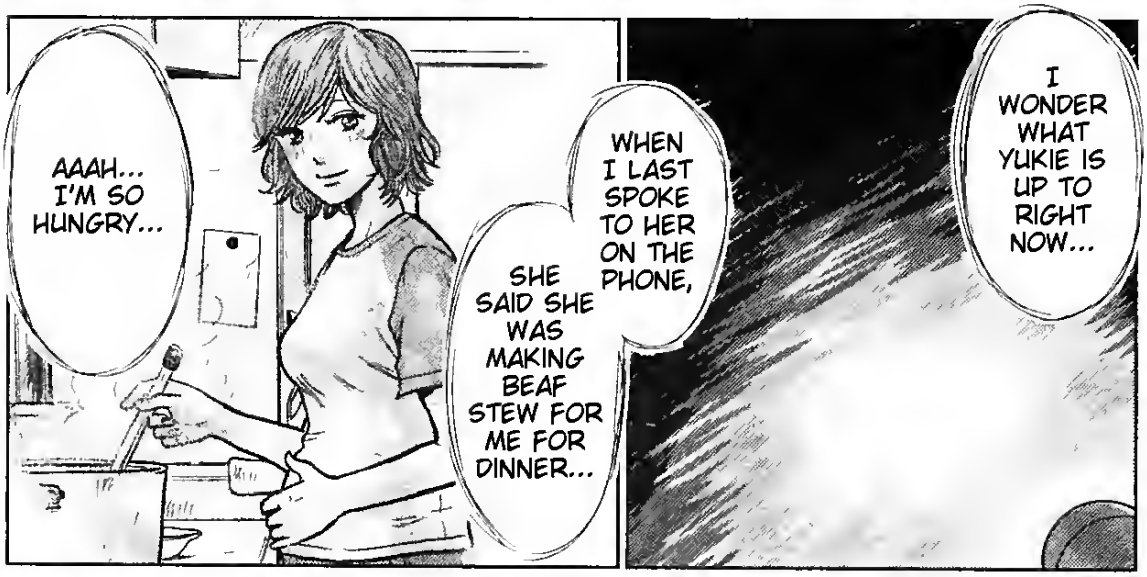
AH ...!
H-... HEY!
じゃー
じゃー
じゃー
ちゃぷ...
.....

WE GOTTA HEAD BACK...
TOHNO... LET'S GO...
WE'LL COME BACK FOR HIM LATER...



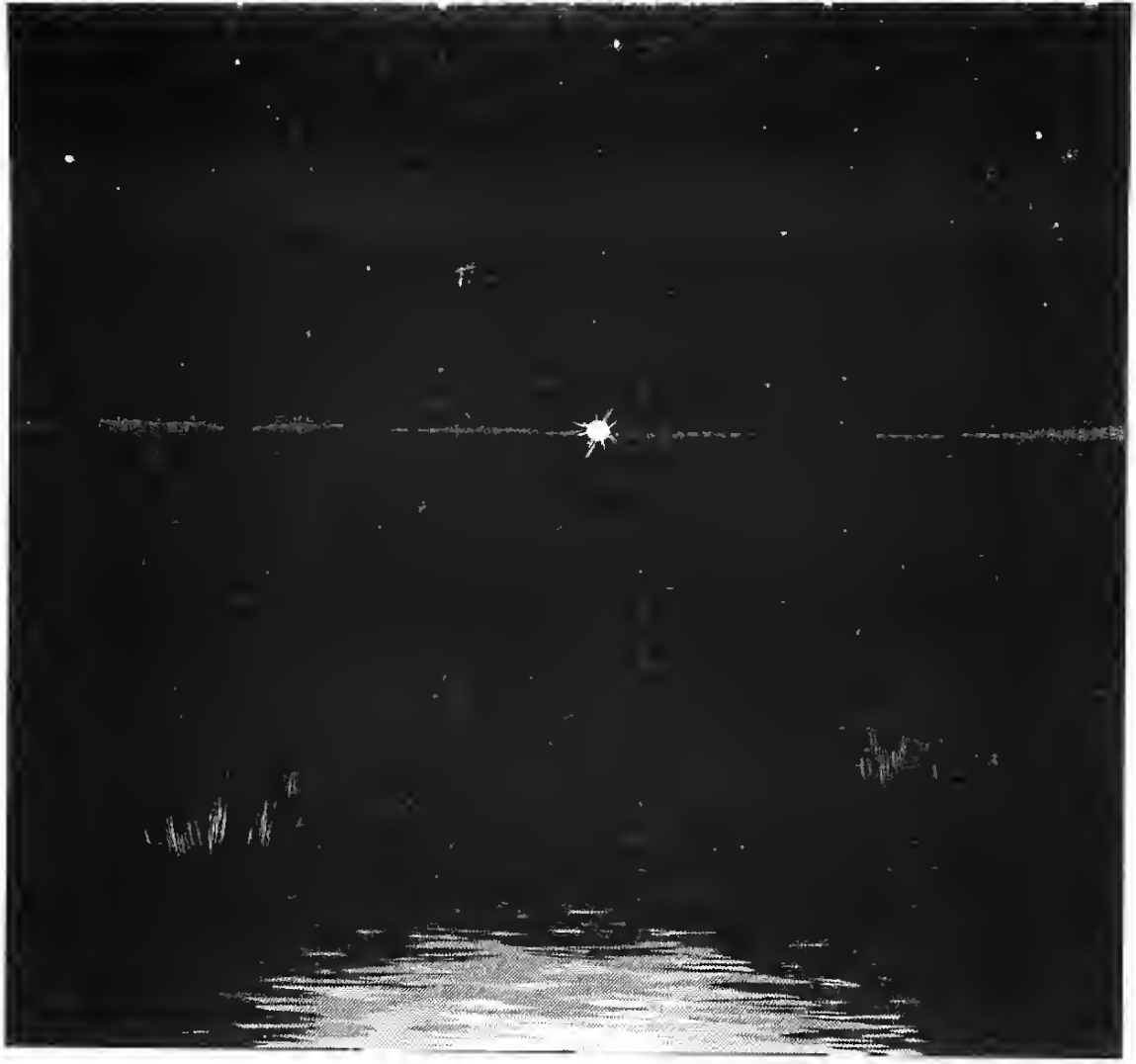
.....
WALK FASTER!
IT'S ALREADY DARK OUT!
HEY!

HAA...
ちゃぷ...
AROUND THIS TIME...
IS WHEN I'D BE MAKING MY WAY HOME FROM WORK...
じゃぶ
じゃぶっ


I WONDER WHAT YUKIE IS UP TO RIGHT NOW...
WHEN I LAST SPOKE TO HER ON THE PHONE,
SHE SAID SHE WAS MAKING BEAF STEW FOR ME FOR DINNER...
AAAH... I'M SO HUNGRY...

!

.....
WH-... WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
...!?
!
ぴっ
WHAT'S THAT?
HEY...



A LIGHT SHIN-ING...
THERE'S ...

IS THERE SOME-ONE THERE?
I-...
.....

HAA...
HAA...
HAA...
HAA...

OPEN
インターネットカフェ

.....
.....

THE... LIGHTS ARE ON ...!?
WHY'S ...?
WHAT'S... GOING ON...?

COME ON, LET'S GO INSIDE!!
C-...

ドカ
ドカ
ドカ
ドカ

!
IT...
IT'S SO COOL IN HERE!
AH...
AH!
ガチャ
.....
HAAA...
AH...

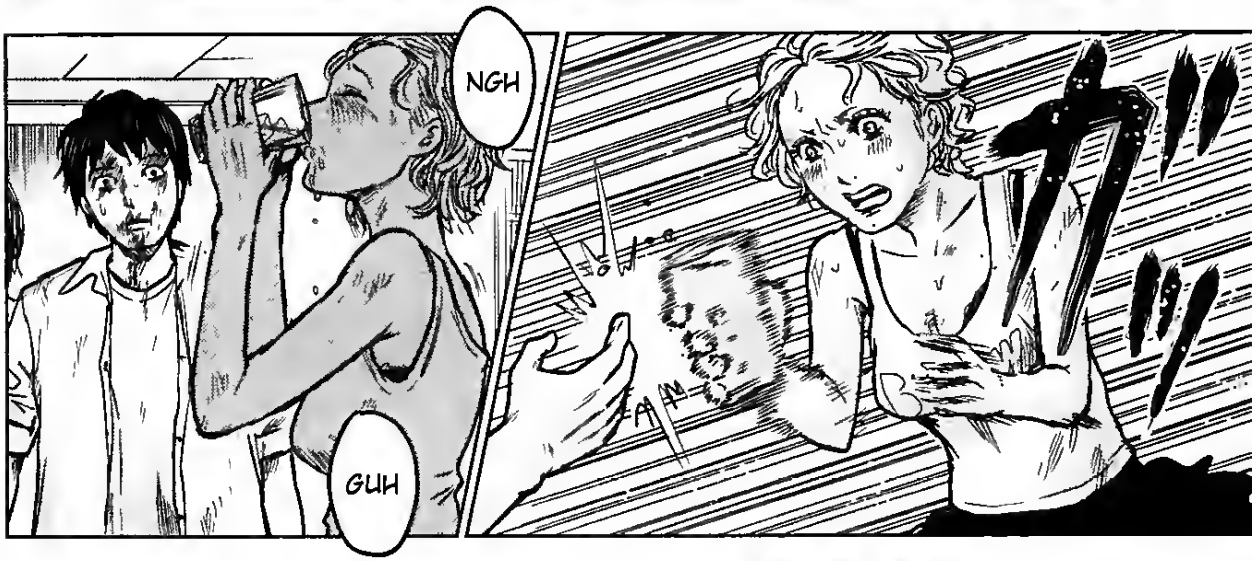
.....
NO...
HOW DID IT GO!? DID YOU FIND ANY-THING!?
WH-... WHEN DID YOU GET BACK!?
NOTHING.
TH-... THIS IS...
WAIT... WHAT'S WITH THE BLOOD!?
I... I SEE...
RIGHT?
HE SLIPPED IN SOME MUD AND HIT HIS HEAD AGAINST A STONE.
THE FOOL HAD IT COMING.

I... I SEE...
HUH? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLD GUY?
WHAT A... FOOL...
!!
Y-... YEAH! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPEN-ED!
BEST TO JUST LEAVE HIM BE, NO?
HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO COME BACK HERE AND WENT OFF SOMEWHERE BY HIMSELF.
ER...
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
.....
AH!
YEAH, WE'VE GOT ELECTRICITY NOW!
WHY ARE THE LIGHTS ON?
ANYWAY, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

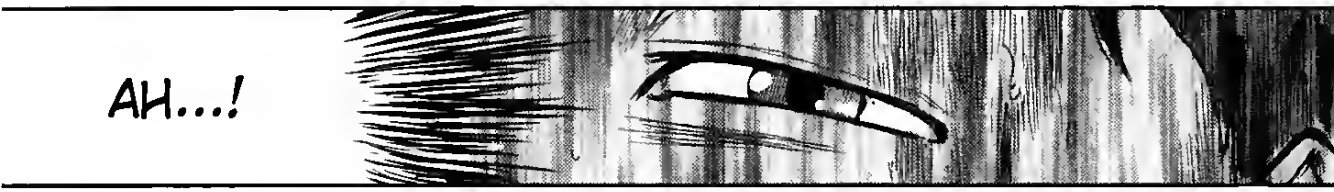
CHECK IT OUT! I FORCED THE DOOR OPEN, AND WHEN I WENT INSIDE, I SAW THIS!
AN EMERGENCY GENERATOR! ISN'T THIS GREAT!? I FOUND IT!
YEAH, BUT WITH THIS, WE'VE GOT LIGHTS, AND EVEN THE AIR CONDI-TIONER IS ON!
OH! WE'VE GOT COLD DRINKS NOW TOO!
.....
SO...
IT WASN'T THE MAIN POWER SUPPLY THAT WAS ON...

SURE... LET'S HEAD DOWN-STAIRS THEN...
LET ME HAVE SOME... PLEASE!!
R-... REALLY !?
TERA-SAWA...
どかどかどかどか
WE'VE GOT ELECTRICITY NOW... WE'VE GOT TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT RIGHT NOW, DON'T YOU AGREE?
LET'S WORK TOGETHER...
WHATEVER.
.....

DRINK BA
LOOKS LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY WHEN THERE'S AN EMERGENCY!
HERE YOU GO!


NGH
GUH

AH...
HERE!


AH...!

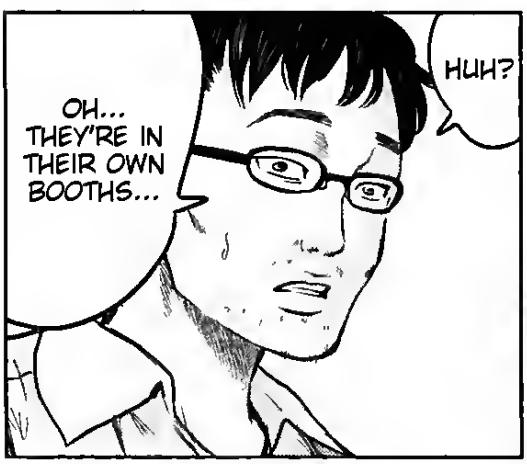
HM...
NGH...
HM

PWAH
!!!

NGH
NGH
A-... ANOTHER ROUND PLEASE!!

HN...
NGH

HAA
HAA
.....
.....
.....
.....

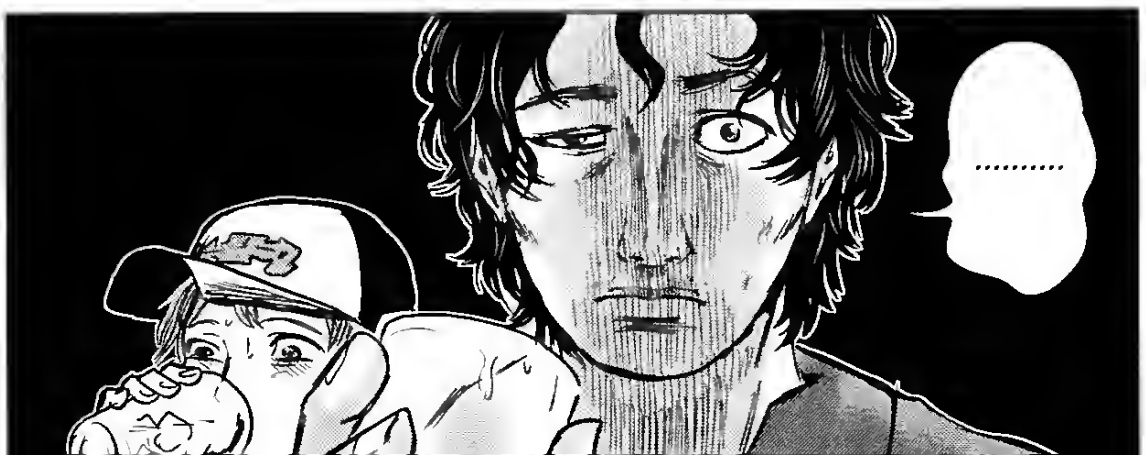

HUH?
OH... THEY'RE IN THEIR OWN BOOTHS...

HEY...
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

I'LL GO CALL EVERYONE.
PLEASE, I'VE GOT A FAVOUR TO ASK!
CAN YOU ROUND UP ALL THE REMAINING FOOD AND DRINKS HERE?

PLEASE, JUST DO IT!
WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO DO THAT?
HUH?

OKAY!
I'M COMING TOO.
TOKI...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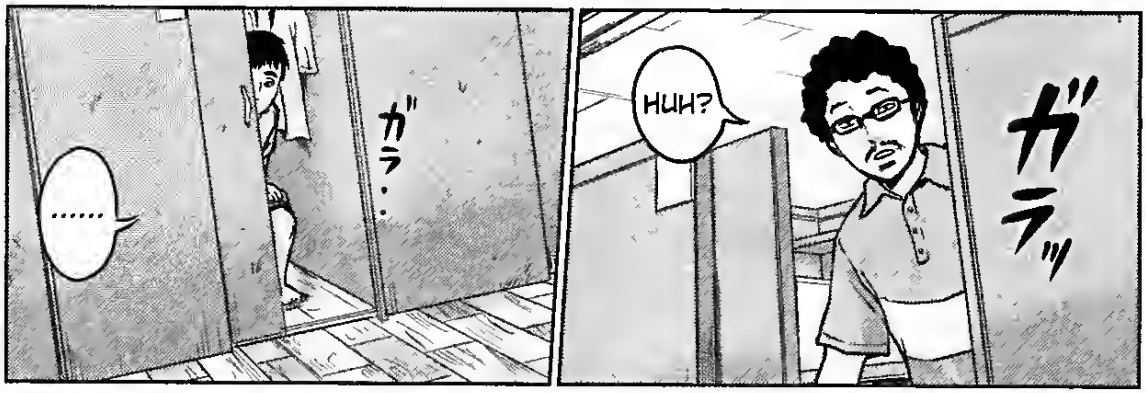
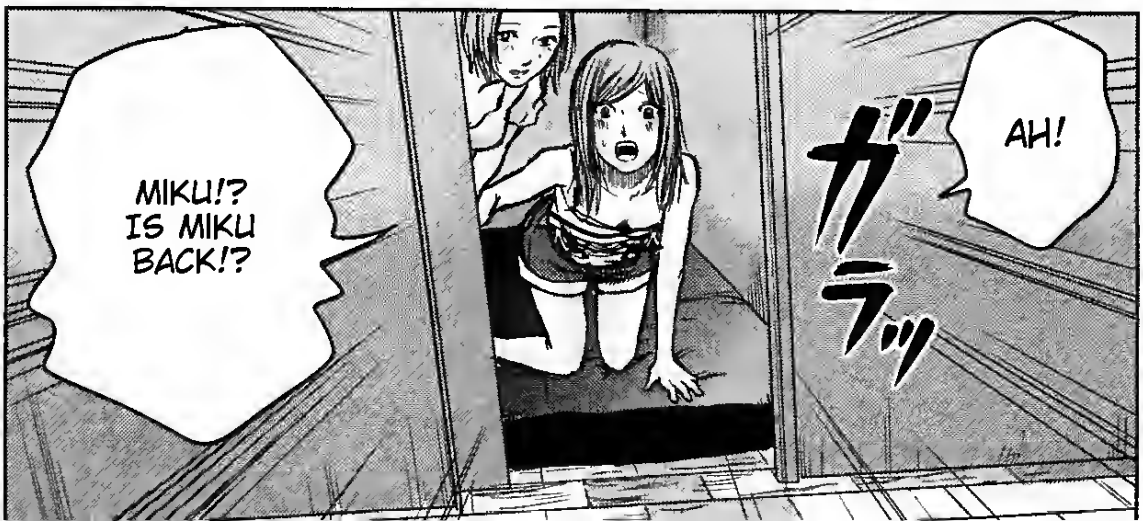
EXCUSE ME!!
HEY, EVERYONE!! PLEASE MEET UP AT THE DRINKS BAR!!

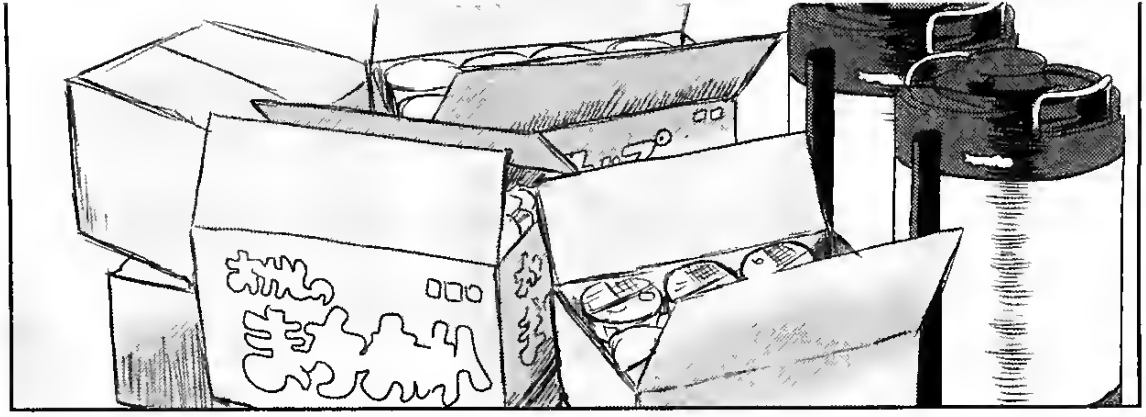

ガラッ
HUH?
ガラ・
……


AH!
ガラッ
MIKU!? IS MIKU BACK!?

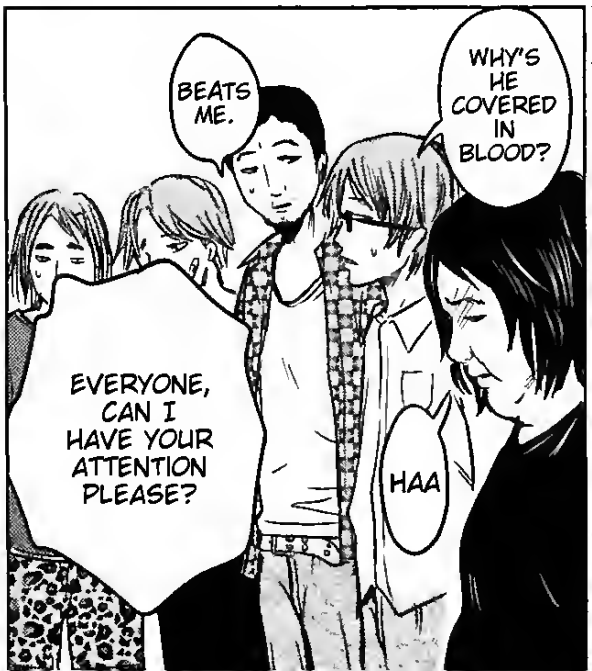
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED OUTSIDE?
DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?
.....
MIKU, ARE YOU OKAY!?
カッ
カッ
カッ
OH...
OKAY...
PLEASE! JUST HEAD TO THE DRINKS BAR!
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING THERE!
...!?

.....
COME ON! LET'S ALL MEET UP!
PLEASE!!
ぞろ・・
ぞろ・・
カチ・カチカチ
!
HMM...
IS THIS EVERY-ONE?

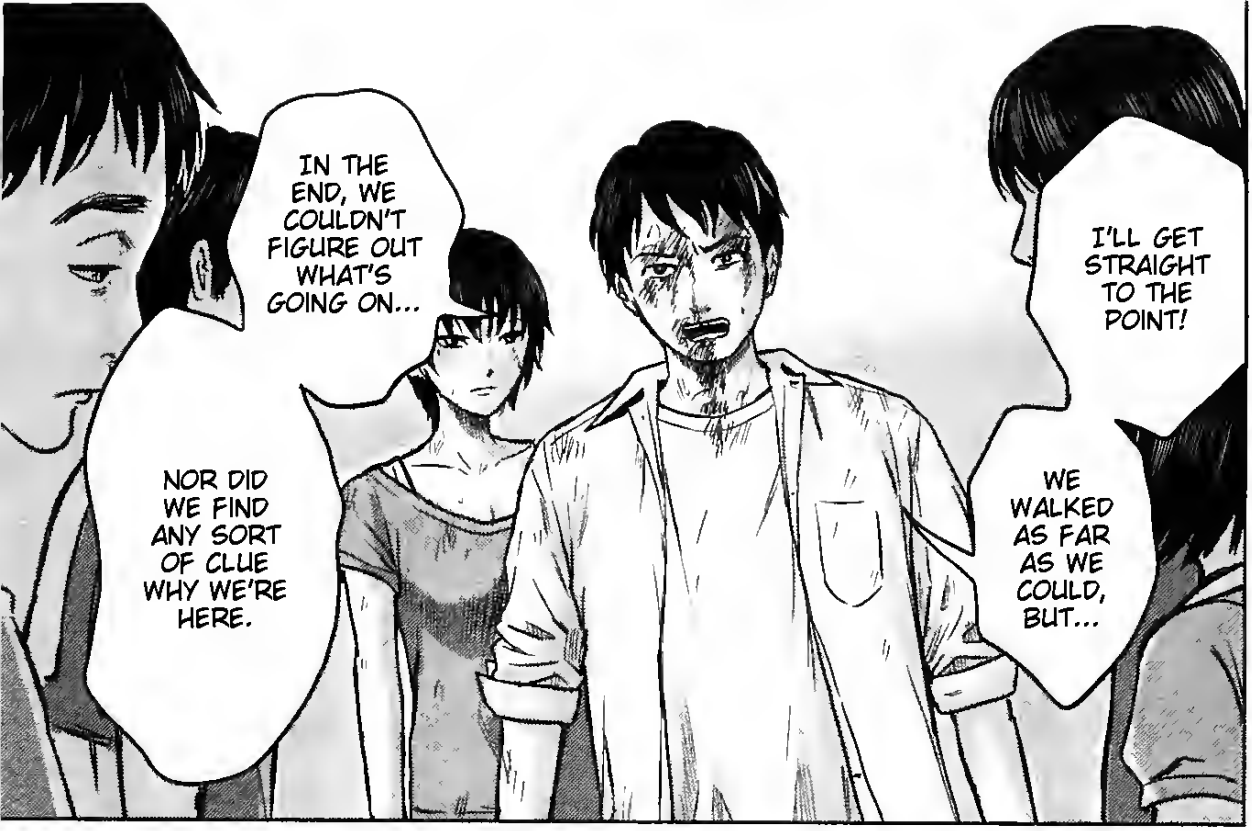
カチ
カチ
カチ
カチ
ERM...
EXCUSE ME...
CAN WE DO THIS LATER?
カチ
カチ
I'M KINDA IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING RIGHT NOW.
.....
TCH!
THIS IS IMPOR-TANT! PLEASE!
WHAT!? NO... ERM...



MIKU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU HURT!?
ER... NO...


WHY'S HE COVERED IN BLOOD?
BEATS ME.
EVERYONE, CAN I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE?
HAA

IS THIS EVERY-ONE?
2, 4, 6...
19 PEOPLE!
ER... THAT'S RIGHT.


IN THE END, WE COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON...
I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT!
NOR DID WE FIND ANY SORT OF CLUE WHY WE'RE HERE.
WE WALKED AS FAR AS WE COULD, BUT...

.....
WHAT !?

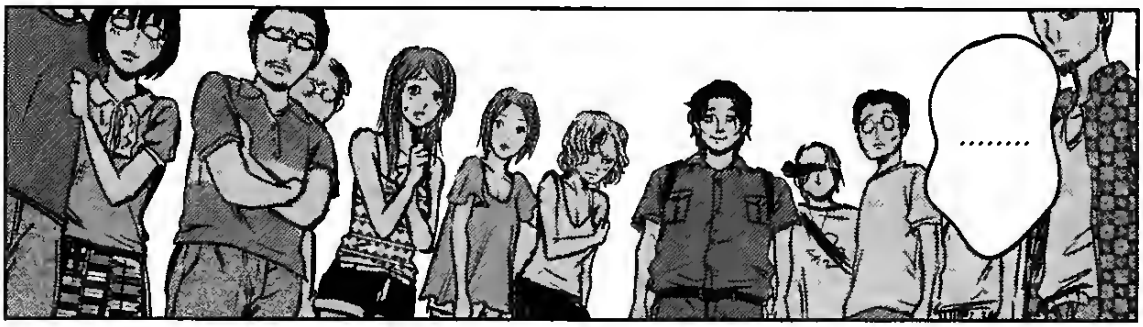
WE MIGHT NEVER GET RESCUED... ACTUALLY, WE MOST LIKELY WON'T.
ALSO...
WE RAN INTO SOME WEIRD CREATURE WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
THIS DEFINITELY ISN'T TOKYO.
HOW-EVER!

I KNOW EVERYONE FEELS LOST, AND NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT... FOR NOW, LET'S JUST DO WHAT WE CAN!
WE MUSTN'T LOSE HOPE!
LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO TRY TO FIND A WAY HOME!

IF WE COLLECT RAIN, WE CAN ENSURE OUR WATER SUPPLY.
WE JUST NEED TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF FOOD FAST!
THIS IS ALL THE FOOD AND DRINK WE HAVE!

COME ON, LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER ON THIS!
RIGHT NOW, IT'S ALL ABOUT SURVIVAL!

AND... IN ORDER TO DO THAT, WE HAVE TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!
SO... HOW ABOUT WE ALL INTRODUCE OURSELVES? WHAT DO YOU SAY?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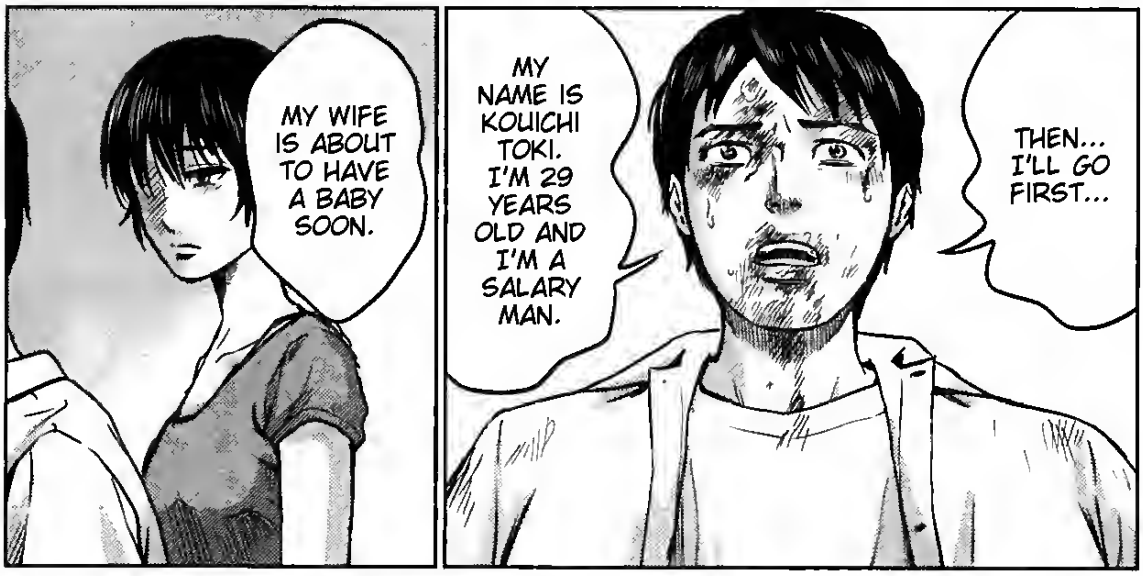

THEN... I'LL GO FIRST...
MY NAME IS KOUICHI TOKI. I'M 29 YEARS OLD AND I'M A SALARY MAN.
MY WIFE IS ABOUT TO HAVE A BABY SOON.

A-... ALL RIGHT, NEXT!
PLEASE, WILL YOU INTRO-DUCE YOUR-SELF?
HUH? ER... UM...

ALL RIGHT, NEXT!
ERM... I'M SATOU...
AND... WELL... THAT'S ABOUT IT...
YOU CAN SKIP ME... I WON'T GET IN ANYONE'S WAY HERE...
IT'S OKAY...
ERM... NO...
SOMEONE HERE HAS STOLEN MY WALLET!
ANYWAY, MORE IMPOR-TANTLY!
HUH?

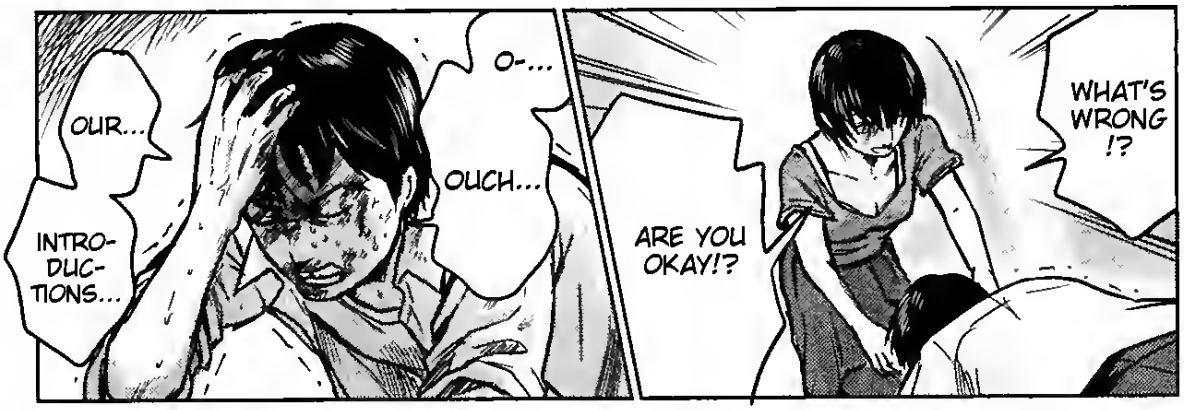
HEY!
WHO WAS IT!? IT *HAS* TO BE ONE OF YOU!
WHEN I WENT OUTSIDE TO TAKE A SHIT EARLIER, IT GOT SNATCHED!
IT WAS THE *TWO OF YOU*, WASN'T IT!?
HUH ...!?
YOU'RE IN THE BOOTH ACROSS FROM ME, AREN'T YOU!?
AH!
YOU TWO LOOK SUSPICIOUS!
WE'VE BEEN CRYING IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS THE WHOLE TIME!
WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT YOUR WALLET!

ALL RIGHT, LISTEN UP!
I WILL MANAGE THE FOOD AND DRINKS HERE.
SAY WHAT!?
YOU WANT TO HOG ALL THE FOOD FOR YOUR-SELF!?

AC-CHAN?
HUH?
HEY RYOUJI, GIVE IT A REST!
JUST GO ALONG WITH WHAT HE SAYS!
WELL, SOMEONE'S GOTTA DO IT.
IT'S A BIG JOB WITH A LOT OF RESPON-SIBILITY, BUT I'LL ACCEPT IT...
TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE SURVIVES HERE...
RIGHT, TOKI?
DON'T WORRY!
I'LL DISTRIBUTE THE RATIONS FAIRLY AMONGST EVERYONE! WHY WOULDN'T I?
WE CAN GO FIND ANOTHER SOURCE OF FOOD LATER!
MEETING OVER!
AND WITH THAT SAID...

WELL THEN, WE'LL LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS.
BEST TO HAVE SOMEONE MANAGE THE FOOD.
HAAH... FINE BY ME.
そろ
そろ
そろ
HEY...!
WHAT ABOUT EVERYONE'S INTRODUC-TIONS!! HEY, COME ON!!
HEY, GUYS!!

URGH!


O-...
OUCH...
OUR...
INTRO-
DUC-
TIONS...
WHAT'S
WRONG
!?
ARE YOU
OKAY!?

.....

HI, I'M
KAHO
TOHNO.
TOKI AND
I WENT TO
THE SAME
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.

THERE, I INTRODUCED MYSELF.
COME ON, WE BETTER GET YOUR WOUNDS TREATED.

.....

CAN YOU STAND?
YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST ON THE COUCH.
第14話 終